# Age Distribution of Pesticide-Related Cases Reported by California Physicians[1,2] 1999

## Exposure to Pesticides Other Than Antimicrobial[3] Pesticides

| Age Group | Agricultural[4] | | | Non-Agricultural[4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Unknown | Male | Female | Unknown |
| < 10 years | 11 | 10 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 0 |
| 10 - 14 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 - 19 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 - 29 | 47 | 19 | 0 | 31 | 16 | 0 |
| 30 - 39 | 74 | 25 | 0 | 36 | 28 | 0 |
| 40 - 49 | 40 | 21 | 0 | 24 | 31 | 0 |
| 50 - 59 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 0 |
| 60 - 69 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Unknown | 73 | 65 | 1 | 38 | 54 | 7 |

## Exposure to Antimicrobial[3] Pesticides

| Age Group | Agricultural[4] | | | Non-Agricultural[4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Unknown | Male | Female | Unknown |
| < 10 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 10 - 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 - 19 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| 20 - 29 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 43 | 36 | 0 |
| 30 - 39 | 3 | 16 | 0 | 35 | 50 | 0 |
| 40 - 49 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 27 | 37 | 0 |
| 50 - 59 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 18 | 0 |
| 60 - 69 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 |

1. **Source:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.
   The term “pesticide-related” means a determination was made that the illness/injury was definitely, probably or possibly related to pesticide exposure (see definitions below)

2. **Relationship:** Degree of correlation between pesticide exposure and resulting symptomatology. The term "related to pesticide exposure" refers to one of the following relationships.

   Definite : High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology. Requires both medical evidence (such as measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (environmental and/or biological samples, exposure history) to support the conclusions.
   Probable : Relatively high degree of correlation exists between the pattern of exposure and the resulting symptomatology. Either medical or physical evidence is inconclusive or unavailable.
   Possible : Some degree of correlation evident. Medical and physical evidence are inconclusive or unavailable.

3. **Antimicrobial:** Pesticides used to kill or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, etc.).

4. **Agricultural/Non-Agricultural:** Indicates whether the suspected pesticide(s) is intended to contribute to the production of agricultural commodities.

   Agricultural : The suspected pesticide(s) is intended to contribute to the production of agricultural commodities, including livestock. This includes the following: 1) handling of raw agricultural commodities in the packing house, 2) agriculture/urban interfaces including agricultural pesticides drifting into non-agricultural areas such as residences, and 3) transportation and storage of pesticides on farm lands. This excludes the following situations that are classified as agricultural for regulatory purposes: 1) forestry operations, 2) rights-of-way and 3) landscaped parks.
   Non-Agricultural : The suspected pesticide(s) is not intended to contribute to the production of agricultural commodities. This includes, but is not limited to the following: 1) residential pesticide uses, 2) structural pest control, 3) rights-of-way, 4) parks, 5) landscaped urban areas, and 6) transportation and storage of pesticides except on farm lands. This excludes agriculture/urban interfaces.

**Whom to Contact:**

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**About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data**

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for nearly 50 years. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) maintains a surveillance program which records human health effects of pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) documents information on adverse effects from pesticide products, whether elicited by the active ingredients, inert ingredients, impurities, or breakdown products. This program maintains a database, which is utilized for evaluating the circumstances of pesticide exposures resulting in illness. This database is consulted regularly by staff who evaluate(s) the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.